

Can You Beat That, Sadie?

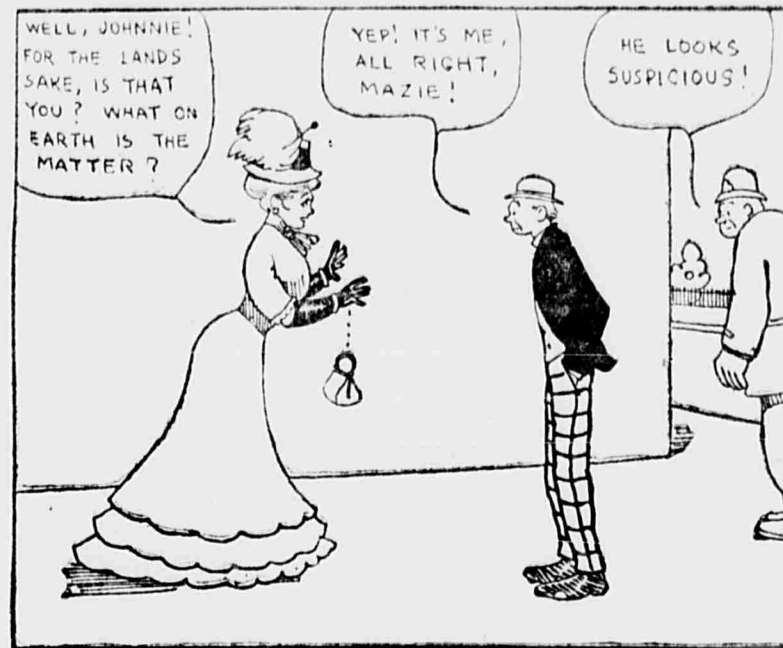
By R. W. Taylor



Remember little Johnnie Jay,
Who used to chuck his coin away
All up and down the Great White Way?
You couldn't beat him, Sadie!



He used to bet on every race,
Buy trouble-water by the case
And slosh it all around the place!
Can you beat that, Sadie?



Well, dear, poor Johnnie's down and out—
Says all his coin is up the spout!
Poor kid! he couldn't go the route!
Can you beat that, Sadie?



He's workin' now in some cafe
For cakes and eighty cents a day!
Well—one more good thing gone away!
Say! can you beat that, Sadie?

50 Ways for Girls to Earn a Living

By RHETA CHILDE DORR.

This series gives complete information as to positions open to girls, the requirements, duties, pay, etc. Also how to get the positions.

No. 13—Commercial Telegraphy.



SOMETHING like 50 women find employment in New York as telegraph operators. This is somewhat under the usual number, the business depression following close upon the strike having somewhat reduced the ranks. There is every reason to believe that women will be needed in this occupation before long. A recent law has given to railroad telegraphers throughout the country a nine hour day. This means that the railroads will have to employ a great many additional men, which must of course deplete the ranks of commercial telegraphers, and give beginners a chance.

Telegraph operating, while it does not at present offer ideal conditions, is a good vocation for women. It is highly skilled, and once learned is never forgotten. The operator can go back to her job after marriage, should adversity demand.

One way to learn telegraphy is to enter the service of one of the large companies as an assistant, to carry messages from desk to desk, or from one part of the building to another. These junior employees are encouraged to learn operating and are given an opportunity to practise under an instructor half an hour in the morning and another half hour in the afternoon. They are also permitted to practise by themselves after working hours. Sometimes a student buys a machine; they are inexpensive and practise in the evening. An ordinarily intelligent

girl, practising intelligently two hours a day, should be qualified at the end of six months to take charge of a light wire. It takes about three years to become a first-class operator—that is, an operator who is able to handle long distance wires, or very heavy wires, at sustained high speed.

A better way to become a telegrapher is to learn the machine under a competent instructor. There is a free class in telegraphy for women at Cooper Union. The term begins October 1 and ends about the middle of May. School hours are from 9 to 1. Applicants must be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four, and must apply between July 1 and Oct. 1.

The Educational Alliance, corner of Jefferson street and East Broadway, also maintains free classes in telegraphy. As a rule, girls should begin this study before the age of eighteen. A grammar school education is necessary, and if a girl can stay in high school two years the chances are that she will become a much more competent operator. I should advise the Washington Irving High School, because of its excellent courses in stenography and typewriting. All telegraph operators must be familiar with the typewriter. At present operators, in main offices at least, must furnish their own typewriters, which is an oppressive condition.

Besides the main offices, women operators find employment in hotels, brokers' offices and other offices where telegraphy is used.

Hours of work average nine and a half in main offices, nine in hotels and six in brokers' offices.

Wages, according to the skill, experience, and, it must be said, luck of the operator, range from \$7 to \$20 a week.

The Kind We Want.

"I WOULD like to engage an optimistic cook," began Mrs. Maitron.

"I don't understand," said the employment agent.

"I'll be more explicit," replied Mrs. Maitron. "I want a cook who makes the best of things."—Harper's Weekly.

The Best of All Ghost Stories

(By Permission of George Munro's Sons.)

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTER. The writer, an Englishman, hears of a haunted house in London and obtains permission from the owner to spend a night there. Thither he goes one evening with his brave man servant and his bull terrier. Suspecting human agency in the ghostly visitations, he is heavily armed and prepared to expose any trick the supposed "ghosts" may seek to play. The servant has been sent on ahead to light fires and make the house comfortable for the night.

Chapter II.
The Ordeal.

I was a summer night, but chilly, the sky somewhat gloomy and overcast. Still there was a moon—faint and sickly, but still a moon—and if the clouds permitted, after midnight it would be brighter.

I reached the house, knocked, and my servant opened with a cheerful smile. "All right, sir, and very comfortable." "Oh," said I, rather disappointed, "have you not seen or heard anything remarkable?"

"Well, sir, I must own I have heard something queer."

"What?—what?"

"The sound of feet pattering behind me; and once or twice small noises like whistles close at my ear—nothing more."

"You are not at all frightened?"

"Not a bit of it, sir," and the man's bold look reassured me on one point—viz, that, happen what might, he would not desert me.

Investigations.

We were in the hall, the street door closed, and my attention was now drawn to my dog. He had at first run eagerly enough, but had sneaked back to the door, and was scratching and whining to get out. After patting him on the head, and encouraging him gently, the dog seemed to reconcile to the situation, and followed me and F— through the house.

Keeping close at my heels instead of hurrying inquisitively in advance, which was his usual and normal habit in all strange places.

We first visited the subterranean apartments, the kitchen, and other offices, and especially the cellars, in which last there were two or three bottles of wine still in a bin, covered with cobwebs, and evidently by their appearance, undisturbed for many years. It was clear that the ghosts were not

winebibbers. For the rest we discovered nothing of interest. There was a gloomy, little back yard, with very high walls. The stones of this yard were very damp; and what with the damp and what with the dust and smoke-krim on the pavement, our feet left a slight impression where we passed.

A Phantom Footprint.

And now appeared the first strange phenomenon witnessed by myself in this strange abode. I saw, just before me, the print of a foot suddenly form itself, as it were, I stopped, caught hold of my servant, and pointed to it. In advance of the footprint as suddenly appeared another. Both saw it. I advanced quickly to the place, the footprint kept advancing before me, a small footprint—the foot of a child, the impression was too faint thoroughly to distinguish the shape, but it seemed to us both that it was the print of a naked foot. This phenomenon ceased when we arrived at the opposite wall, nor did it

repeat itself on returning.

We remounted the stairs, and entered the rooms on the ground floor, a dining-parlor, a small back parlor, and a still smaller third room that had been probably appropriated to a footman—as still as death. We then visited the drawing-rooms, which seemed fresh and new. In the front room I seated myself in the arm chair. F— placed on the table the candlestick with which he had lit the gas. I told him to shut the door. As he turned to do so, a chair opposite me moved from the wall quickly and noiselessly, and dropped itself about a yard from my own chair, immediately fronting it.

"Something Struck Me!"

"Why, this is better than the turning-tables," said I, with a half laugh; and as I laughed my dog put back his head and howled.

F—, coming back, had not observed the movement of the chair. He entered himself now in stilling the dog.

Reflections of a Bachelor Girl.

By Helen Rowland.

MASCULINITY covereth a multitude of sins. Satan and Cupid are chums, who go about together looking for people who have nothing to do.

The most pitiful sight in the world is a man in a big department store looking for the place to buy a spool of thread.

Many a woman has divorced her husband for "desertion," who cheerfully helped pack his trunk and pay for his railway ticket when he left her.

The man who kisses the pretty chamber maid would be horribly shocked to catch his wife winking at the butler.

Their love is mutual when a woman thinks her husband simply perfect—and so does he.

The average man is about as good a judge of women as a woman is of race horses; he picks the favorites by their shape and color.

A man's conscience is made of India rubber—warranted to stretch as long as the fun lasts.

Courting is like cooking; you've got to be born with the knack; brains don't take the prizes and theory doesn't count.

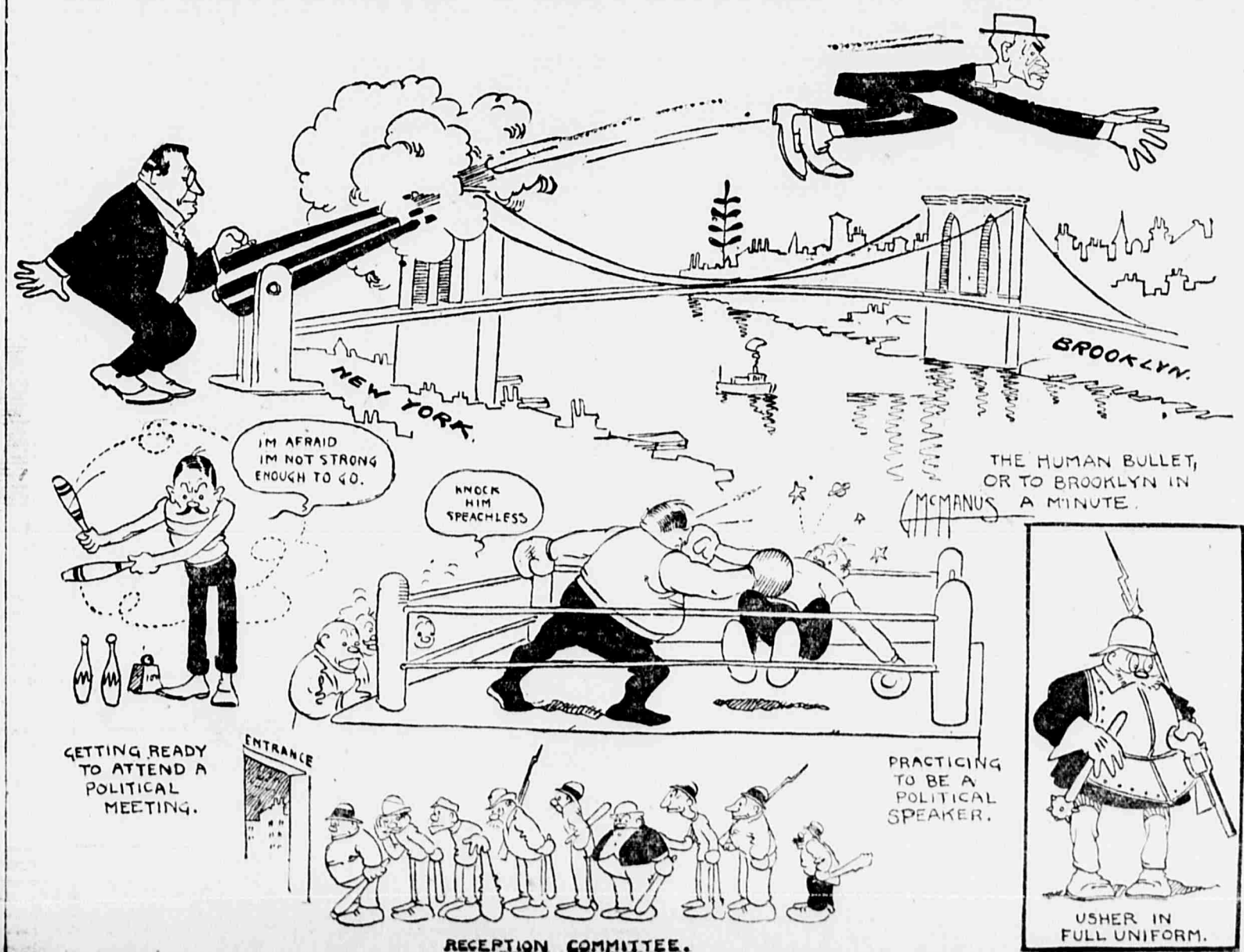
If you want to make a man do anything, don't coax him and don't bully him; just tell him his nose is Greek or that he looks like Napoleon in a frock-coat; there may be several ways round him, but the short cut is straight through his vanity.

The man who whips his small son for lying to shield a girl, has a mental vision as narrow as a Rocky Mountain path and side walls of dogmatism as high as the Colorado Canyon.

Don't always imagine that the man and woman who walk side by side without speaking to each other are angry; they may be only married.

There are some men who regard their wives' accomplishments with the same patronizing complacency that they feel toward the tricks of the educated monkey at the circus.

A Democratic Convention in New York.



RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

The House and the Brain

Bulwer By Lytton

I continued to gaze on the chair, and fancied I saw on it a pale, blue, misty outline of a human figure, but an outline so indistinct that I could only distrust my own vision. The dog now was quiet. "Put back that chair opposite to me," said I to F—; put it back to the wall.

F— obeyed. "Was that you, sir?" said he, turning abruptly.

"Why, something struck me. I felt it sharply on the shoulder—just here."

"No," said I. "But we have jugglers present, and though we may not discover their tricks, we shall catch them before they frighten us."

We did not stay long in the drawing-rooms—in fact, they felt so damp and so chilly that I was glad to get to the fire upstairs. We locked the doors of the drawing-rooms—a precaution which, I should observe, we had taken with all the rooms we had selected below.

The bedroom my servant had selected for me was the best on the floor—a large one, with two windows fronting the street. The four-posted bed, which took up no inconsiderable space, was opposite to the fire, which burned clear and bright; a door in the wall to the left, between the bed and the window, communicated with the room which my

servant appropriated to himself. This last was a small room with a sofa-bed, and had no communication with the landing-place—no other door but that which conducted to the bedroom I was to occupy.

A Locked Door.

On either side of my fireplace was a cupboard without locks, flush with the wall, and covered with the same dull brown paper. We examined these cupboards—only looks to suspend female dresses—nothing else; we sounded the walls—evidently solid—the outer walls of the building. Having finished the survey of these apartments, warned myself a few moments, and lighted my cigar, I then, still accompanied by F—, went forth to complete my reconnaissance. In the landing-place there was another door; it was closed firmly.

"Sir," said my servant, in surprise, "I unlocked this door with all the others when I first came; it cannot have got locked from the outside, for—"

Before he had finished his sentence the door, which neither of us then was touching, opened quietly of itself. We looked at each other an instant. The same thought seized both—some human agency might be detected here. I rushed in first, my servant followed. A small, blank, dreary room, without furniture—a few empty boxes and hampers in a corner—a small window—the shutters closed—not even a fireplace—no door but that by which we had entered—no carpet on the floor, and the floor seemed very old, uneven, worn-out, mended here and there, as was shown by the whiter patches on the wood; but no living being could have hidden. As we stood gazing around, the door by which we had entered closed as quietly as it had before opened; we were imprisoned.

Horror!

For the first time I felt a creep of undefinable horror. Not so my servant. "Why, they don't think to trap us, sir; I could break that trumpery door with a kick of my foot."

"Try first if it will open to your hand," said I, shaking off the vague apprehension that had seized me.

"While I unlock the shutters and see what is within."

I unbarred the shutter—the window looked on the little backyard I had before described; there was no ledge without—nothing to break the sheer descent of the wall. No man getting out of that window would have found any footing till he had fallen on the stones below.

F—, meanwhile, was vainly attempting to open the door. He now turned round to me, and asked my permission to use force. And I should here state, warning myself of superstitious terrors, his nerve, composure, and even gayety amid circumstances so extraordinary compelled my admiration and made me congratulate myself on having secured a companion in every way fitted to the occasion. I willingly gave him the permission he required. But though he was a remarkably strong man, force was as idle as his milder efforts; the door did not even shake to his stoutest kick. Breathless and panting he desisted.

Mysterious Letters.

I then tried the door myself, equally in vain. As I ceased from the effort again that creep of horror came over me; but this time it was more cold and stubborn. I felt as if some strange and

ghastly exhalation were rising up from the chimneys at rugged door and filling the atmosphere with a venomous influence hostile to human life. The door now very slowly and quietly opened as if of its own accord. We pre-empted ourselves into the landing-place. We both saw a large, pale light—as large as a human figure, but shapeless and unsubstantial—move before us and ascend the stairs that led from the landing into the attic. I followed the light and my servant followed me. I entered, to the right of the landing, a small garret, of which the door stood open.

"I entered in the same instant. The light then collapsed into a small globe, exceedingly brilliant and vivid; rested a moment on a chair in the corner, quivered and vanished. We approached the bed and examined it—a half-tester, such as is commonly found in attics devoted to servants. On the drawers that stood near it were perceived an old, faded silk kerchief, with the needle still left in a rent half repaired. The kerchief was covered with dust; probably it had belonged to the old woman, this silent habited and examined it—a half-tester, such as is commonly found in attics devoted to servants. On the drawers that stood near it were perceived an old, faded silk kerchief, with the needle still left in a rent half repaired. The kerchief was covered with dust; probably it had belonged to the old woman, this silent habited and examined it—a half-tester, such as is commonly found in attics devoted to servants. 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